

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- Sub B1
1. An adapter comprising an analog to digital converter, for connecting a telephone set to a computer.
 2. An adapter according to claim 1, further comprising a first output port configured as a telephone socket for attachment of a telephone plug.
 3. An adapter according to claim 2 further comprising one or more additional output ports, likewise configured as telephone sockets and each having a unique address.
 4. An adapter according to claim 1 further comprising a look-up table for translating numerical address information entered at a key pad of the telephone into addresses on the computer.
 5. An adapter according to claim 1 further comprising a look-up table for translating numerical information entered at a key pad of the telephone into addresses on a network to which the computer is attachable.
 6. An adapter according to claim 5 wherein the lookup table contains Internet addresses and wherein the computer is attachable to the Internet.
 7. An adapter comprising an analog to digital converter, for connecting a telephone set to a computer network.
 8. An adapter according to claim 7, further comprising a first output port configured as a telephone socket for attachment of a telephone plug.
 9. An adapter according to claim 8 further comprising one or more additional output ports, configured as telephone sockets and each having a unique address.
 10. An adapter according to claim 7 wherein the adapter contains a look-up table for converting numerical data entered at a keypad of the telephone into addresses

on the network.

11. ~~An adapter according to claim 7 wherein the network comprises the Internet.~~

12. An adapter according to claim 11 comprising a module for operating an Internet protocol.

13. The use of a telephone as a peripheral device for a computer.

14. ~~The use of a telephone according to claim 13 wherein the telephone is operatively attached to the computer via an adapter which is operable to convert digital signals output from the computer into analog signals for input to the telephone and to convert analog signals output from the telephone into digital signals for input to the computer.~~

15. ~~The use of a telephone according to claim 13, for conducting voice communication over a network to which the computer is attached.~~

16. The use of a telephone as a peripheral device for a computer, the computer comprising control software for managing said telephone.

17. The use of a telephone according to claim 16 wherein the control software includes encryption software.

18. The use of a telephone according to claim 16 wherein the control software includes exchange management capabilities.

19. A telephone communication system providing communication between a multiplicity of telephone instruments via a PSTN and a computer network, the system comprising:

a digital telephone switch controller interfacing between a local telephone instrument, the PSTN and a computer connected to the computer network and operative to analyze at least signalling information arriving from at least one of the local telephone instrument, the PSTN and the computer network and to responsively transmit

at least one of voice information and signalling information to at least one of the local telephone instrument, the PSTN and the computer network.

20. A telephone system with local ringing voltage generation, the system comprising:

a local ringing voltage generator operative to locally apply single line ringing voltage to a telephone instrument, thereby to induce the telephone instrument to produce a ringing tone; and

a voltage generator actuator operative to actuate the local ringing voltage generator upon receipt of a single line voltage generation actuation signal from a remote public system telephone network.

21. A system according to claim 20 and also comprising a public system telephone network operative to send a voltage generation actuation signal to the voltage generator actuator which signal is incapable of directly actuating the telephone instrument to produce a ringing tone.

22. A method for setting up a conference call between three participants, the method comprising:

providing a digital telephone switch controller interfacing between a local telephone instrument, the PSTN and a computer connected to the computer network and operative to analyze signalling information and voice information arriving from at least one of the local telephone instrument, the PSTN and the computer network and to responsively transmit at least one of voice information and signalling information to at least one of the local telephone instrument, the PSTN and the computer network; and

using the digital telephone switch controller to set up a conference call between the local telephone instrument, a remote telephone instrument, via the PSTN, and a remote subscriber to the computer network, via the computer network.

23. A method according to claim 22 wherein the controller receives digital voice

information from the remote computer network subscriber, via the computer network.

24. A method according to claim 22 wherein the controller receives analog voice information from the local telephone instrument.

25. A method according to claim 22 wherein the controller receives analog voice information from the PSTN.

26. A system according to claim 19 wherein said controller is operative to analyze signalling information and voice information arriving from at least one of the local telephone instrument, the PSTN and the computer network.

27. A telephone communication system providing communication between a multiplicity of telephone instruments via at least one PSTN and at least one computer network, the system comprising:

a digital telephone switch controller interfacing between a local telephone instrument, the PSTN and a computer connected to the computer network and operative to analyze at least signalling information arriving from at least one of the local telephone instrument, the PSTN and the computer network and to perform local least cost call routing of corresponding voice information to a remote telephone instrument.

28. A system according to claim 19 and wherein said switch controller is operative to mix voice information arriving from the local telephone instrument with voice information arriving from the PSTN.

29. A telephone communication system providing communication between a multiplicity of telephone instruments via a PSTN and a computer network, the system comprising:

a digital telephone switch controller interfacing between a local telephone instrument, the PSTN and a computer connected to the computer network and operative to analyze at least signalling information arriving from at least one of the local telephone instrument, the PSTN and the computer network and to route at least one of

voice information and signalling information accordingly.

30. A telephone communication system according to claim 29 and wherein said digital telephone switch controller comprises a slot for a PC card.

31. A telephone communication system providing communication between a multiplicity of telephone instruments via a PSTN and a computer network, and operative to record said communication at a local level, the system comprising:

a recording device for recording said communication at said local level, and

a digital telephone switch controller interfacing between a local telephone instrument, the PSTN and a computer connected to the computer network and operative to route voice information arriving from at least one of the local telephone instrument, the PSTN and the computer network to said recording device.

32. A telephone communication system providing communication between a multiplicity of telephone instruments, a PSTN, and a computer network, the system comprising:

a digital telephone switch controller interfacing with a computer connected to the computer network, and an adapter interfacing with a local telephone instrument and a PSTN, wherein said adapter comprises a PC card.

33. A telephone communication system according to claim 32 and wherein said digital telephone switch controller comprises a slot for said PC card.